

# THE ADVOCATE.

Devoted to The Interests of The Farmers' Alliance and Industrial Union and other Kindred Organizations.

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## Straight Talk to Farmers by a Private Citizen.

Permit me to call the attention of your readers who feel interested in the prosperity of Kansas farmers and manual labor of all kinds to the fact that the present condition of farmers arises principally from five causes, all within their power to control as follows:

1. The effect of interest in transferring property from the ownership of its producers into that of money lenders. Probably not one man in fifty thousand has any adequate conception of the tremendous results of interest upon the conditions of all classes of people. Farmers and others who desire to understand this subject should procure and read and re-read the book written and published 40 years ago by Edward Kellogg, of Connecticut, and now in print as one of the Lovell Library paper-covered volumes, costing 20 cents, retail. It is entitled, "Labor and Capital," and is no romance. If every grange and farmers' alliance would procure this book, of which probably not one voter in ten thousand has ever heard, and read and discuss it thoroughly, the enlivening spectacle of governors, members of legislatures, railroad commissioners, *et al*, traveling around on railroad passes to condole with farmers who are paying about two bushels of corn to get one bushel to market, would come to a permanent quietus, whatever became of existing parties and the statesmen who manipulate them.

2. Lack of legal tender currency. The work above named is the precursor of latter-day literature and discussion of that subject, it is safe to say that Mr. Harrison has never found time to read it.

3. Exorbitant freights to compel productive industry to pay burdensome interest and dividends on thousands of millions of dollars of bonds and stocks that have no equitable existence. What has the Board of Railroad Commissioners done to reduce freights?

4. Unnecessary purchase and wasteful care of farm machinery great and small. No dodging. The average life of farm machinery in Kansas is stated by men who sell and collect the chattel mortgage notes given in payment, to be three years. Their reckless and inexcusable improvidence in this way alone has in its results impoverished and bankrupted more farmers in Kansas than taxes, liquor, tariff, trusts and monopolies combined; and this ruinous mismanagement is going on as recklessly as in all previous years. Will granges, alliances and politicians please figure this up? It is for each individual farmer to reform himself in regard to how much machinery he runs into debt for and then destroys.

5. Mismanagement of their affairs on the farm, a lack of system, care of live stock, waste of time and labor, in scores of ways, evident enough on four farms out of five all over the state. These causes of financial difficulty can only be remedied by individual management and industry. No labor or privation will prevail against poor management. I was at a farm the other day, where the owner works hard all the year round, and his family live plainly and uncomfortably, as I regret to say, the great majority of farmers do in Kansas, and he is still in debt.

implements all standing out in the rain, wind, sun, snow, or any other weather, going to rust and ruin, while he toils and denies himself and family reasonable comforts to gratify this mania for farm machinery and the improvident disregard for it when purchased. This is true of tens of thousands of Kansas farms and the farmers, and its financial effects are too disastrous and deplorable to form a subject of popular discourse or enable the most gifted speaker to acquire and retain the votes of an admiring agricultural constituency. It is too harrowing for discussion.

As political popularity, and official position and emolument are not to be obtained by honest talk, straight truth and fearless advice to farmers for their own material prosperity, the above five leading causes of agricultural depression in Kansas will of course continue to be passed by or alluded to with kid-glove tenderness by the orators of the day at farmers gatherings. Still there is some comfort; if not practical relief to farmers, in hearing well-salaried officials manifest a sympathetic interest in the low price of corn and cattle and deplore the high prices of sugar, coffee, tobacco and other necessities of life, and a farmer ought to feel much more resigned to getting along with a very moderate supply of comfort, if these gentlemen are sympathizing with him and willing to receive his political support until they devise measures of relief. It is a very philanthropic spectacle indeed.

Practical relief might possibly come about if farmers give the five subjects named their serious consideration and investigation, applying remedies they have in their power as voters and individual managers, but as long as their attention can be engrossed with tariff, resubmission and other subjects about which they must forever remain divided in opinion and action, the monopolies, trusts, combines, and other evils that anybody can afford to denounce without endangering their standing with the gentlemen who conduct these institutions, will continue to rake in their regular profits without difficulty. The farmer is at last getting restless; he don't understand why the proceeds of his toll must year after year with large crops, or small crops, go into other pockets than his own; he must be diverted in some way from too direct an investigation, or he might become an uncontrollable voter. Then what might become of existing parties and politicians? But there is really no danger, or so little of the farmers giving their attention to the subjects mentioned in this article that things may be expected to go on just about as they have been going, and the politicians who tickle the farmers most skillfully will continue to "get there" and statesmanship reap its due reward as heretofore.—J. B. Graham in Emporia Republican.

It is the policy of the gold contraction party, the bond absorption party, the grand money trust of this country, which dominates both political parties, to contract the money volume, to enrich the bondholders and impoverish the people, and to hide their crime from the public by a noisy war over tariff taxes, not however, for their abolition. Neither party

## The Principles of The Farmers' Alliance.

We give in part, the address of "Old Fogey" before the Alliance just organized at the Agricultural College, as it brings prominently before our brethren the principles and policy, adopted at St. Louis.

"We demand that the government shall erect warehouses at any point where a business of half a million dollars, yearly, is done. That the government shall take the products of the soil that are not perishable in their nature and store them, and issue to the farmer bills of exchange to the value of 80 per cent. of the products so warehoused.

"That the producer shall have the right to keep his goods in the warehouse for a year, or to sell at any time during the year.

"That the certificate issued shall be legal tender for public and private debts.

"That the coinage of gold and silver shall not be limited.

"That the government shall own and control the railroads and telegraph lines of our country."

These are the cardinal principles of our order.

Supposing that we would ultimately need 5,000 warehouses and that the cost of these warehouses would be \$25,000,000, or double if you will, the very liberal estimates and make it 50 millions of dollars, yet, if the government were to charge half the rates now, charged for insuring and warehousing, the receipts would, in five years' time, pay for the warehouses so constructed.

But suppose it did not. Has not the government built in all the cities of any size postoffices, at a cost of hundreds of millions?

Has not the government for commerce and contractors passed appropriation bills, the amount of which makes our demands look insignificant by comparison?

One of the arguments has been that where the government erected public buildings it gave employment to hundreds of mechanics and scattered money where the improvements were made.

You may be ready to say this is a new or novel plan. On the contrary, Joseph, the great Secretary of State for King Potiphar, carried on the warehouse system centuries ago, the German and French governments have both practiced the plan, and at times when it seemed as if the State would go down in wreck and ruin, and they were saved by its adoption.

Every manufacturer of whisky can hold his goods for a market that suits him—hold for three years and the government owns, practically, 75 per cent. for taxes.

If the cost of collecting internal revenue is less than five per cent., we can safely assume that it would not be over 2 per cent, by our method.

Our national banks are conducted on the same plan. They deposit evidences of debt and get 90 per cent. in certificates which we call national bank notes. We, on the other hand, propose to deposit evidence of wealth, such products as the world cannot do without and we only ask 80 per cent. of their value.

Private warehouses or those owned by corporations pursue the same line. Wheat is deposited in elevators, sold on certificate and you

bulk. The government now issues certificates on gold and silver, so that there is nothing new in the plan, but it is strikingly new for the farmer, the mechanic and laborer, to ask for anything for their benefit?

You may be ready to ask what benefits are expected to flow from the adoption of this plan?

It would increase the price of all products, for the farmer need not sell his products until they would bring him a margin of profits instead of a clear loss as is now the case.

It would increase the volume of currency, and make it possible if such an amount were needed to make the total reach one billion of dollars.

Take our cotton crops—we could get 350,000,000 dollars, and yet not have sold one pound of cotton if the price was not such as would yield us a profit. We could raise cotton from 9½ to 12½ cents per pound, an increase of over one hundred millions in value in one year. It would raise wheat from 75 cents to \$1 per bushel, and wheat raising would once more be profitable. It would transfer the profits from the speculator to the laborer, from Wall street to the farm.

In short we propose to have a Sub-Treasury in each county and for the producer to receive from the government bills of exchange that shall be legal tenders for all the people. By adding to the volume of currency we would decrease the rates of interest and increase the values of the farmer.

Space will not permit of more extended extracts.—Progressive Farmer.

"In conversation with a leading and influential farmer of the country this week, he related how a prominent representative of the loan interests had approached him with a proposition, and was urgent in his request, that as a representative of the Alliance he exert his influence to have an agent sent from this country to Castle Garden, where the foreign garbage is dumped on our shores, to secure as large an emigration from that class to come west and occupy these idle farms as tenants; that it would populate the rural districts and give us a "stable," industrious class of farmers. In less than an hour, he continued, I was talking with a banker, and he said we ought to do something to fill up these idle farms with foreigners, and to do that he was in favor of doing away with this prohibition, as foreigners must have their beverages; he had done business with that class of people, and they were far preferable to the native born; they live on less, are saving and economical, and a more profitable class to bank with."—Nonconformist.

The Wichita Eagle says the farmers' Alliance has some good ideas that ought to be put in practice. This is true enough, but a good many of them are impracticable.—Topeka Journal.

That is altogether from what standpoint they are viewed. All the trusts and combines of the country think the same thing. All the option grain gamblers and stock wreckers of the country will also endorse your observation. Congress itself is with a very troubled spirit contemplating the "impracticable" notions of the Farmers' Alliance. Upon the other hand the Eagle